

REMARKS

Applicants present for consideration two new dependent claims (20 and 21) that specify respectively that (1) the Si/Al atomic ratio of the high-silica zeolite has a range of not less than 40 to 1,000 and (2) the zeolite is an H type zeolite; support for the new claims is found in the specification at page 9, lines 29 to 34, and page 10, lines 1 to 3, respectively.

Applicants respectfully submit that the claims patentably define over the cited art for the reasons presented to date, including the arguments in the Request for Reconsideration filed November 24, 2003 and for the following additional reasons.

New claim 21 is intended specifically patentably to distinguish over the general formula shown at page 5 of the English translation of JP '247 as no alkali metal is present in the H type zeolite. Applicants also respectfully submit that such a claim patentably distinguishes over Swaroop et al. '694.

Applicants reiterate that the claimed subject matter relates to a patentable discovery involving controls on a high-silica zeolite in an absorbent structure as claimed. The record, including the Declaration Under 37 CFR 1.132 of co-inventor

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Naomi Noda filed April 2, 2003, supports patentability. The values reported in the declaration are sufficiently representative of the claimed range of alkali metal control.

Reconsideration of the application is earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned if further changes are required in the case prior to allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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